

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing Of Claims:

1.-16. (Canceled)

17. (New) A fuel injector for injecting water, comprising:

a valve needle;

a valve-seat surface formed on a valve-seat member of a sealing seat;

a valve-closure member located at a spray-discharge-side end of the valve needle, the valve-closure member cooperating with the valve-seat surface; and

a structure including at least one spray-discharge orifice provided downstream from the sealing seat, wherein at least a portion of surfaces of the fuel injector that come into contact with water are coated by a coating that is at least one of corrosion-inhibiting and friction-reducing.

18. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 17, wherein the fuel injector injects water into a gas flow of a fuel cell.

19. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 17, wherein the coating includes a plurality of layers.

20. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 17, further comprising:

joints including welded seams that come into contact with water and are coated by the coating.

21. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 17, further comprising:

a guide surface; and

a sliding surface, wherein the guide surface and the sliding surface are at least partially coated by the coating.

22. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 17, wherein the coating is applied according to a galvanic technique.

23. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 17, wherein the coating is applied by a physical technique including a physical vapor deposition technique.
24. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 17, wherein the coating is applied by a chemical technique including a chemical vapor deposition technique.
25. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 17, wherein:
the coating is made of lubricating varnish on Teflon basis, from materials on sulphur basis, including molybden sulphide MoS_2 , of at least one of carbon, xylan, titanium nitride TiN , and carbon mixtures, including PTEE.
26. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 17, further comprising:
an annular elastic sealing ring, wherein:
the valve-closure member includes a spherical valve-closure member,
the valve-closure member includes an annular groove in a region of the sealing seat, and
the annular elastic sealing ring is introduced in the annular groove.
27. (New) The fuel injector as recited in Claim 26, wherein:
the annular sealing ring includes an elastomer.
28. (New) A method for manufacturing a fuel injector, comprising:
producing a joint between a valve needle and a valve-closure member;
positioning the joined components including the valve needle and the valve-closure member;
assigning a metering device; and
applying onto the joint a material to serve as a coating that is at least one of corrosion-inhibiting and friction-reducing, the applying being done via the metering device.
29. (New) The method as recited in Claim 28, wherein the fuel injector injects water into a gas flow of a fuel cell.
30. (New) The method as recited in Claim 28, wherein the producing of the joint includes producing the joint by one of welding and soldering.

31. (New) The method as recited in Claim 28, wherein the applying of the material is performed via a canula with the aid of the metering device.
32. (New) The method as recited in Claim 31, wherein:
the joint lies across the valve-closure member,
the valve needle is formed as a sleeve and includes an opening therethrough, and
the canula is brought to the joint through the opening of the valve needle.
33. (New) The method as recited in Claim 28, wherein the valve needle and the valve-closure member are centrifuged for aftertreatment, the valve-closure member being disposed on an outside and the valve needle on an inside.
34. (New) The method as recited in Claim 33, wherein the aftertreatment is a thermal treatment including a thermal evacuation.